

THE CHINA MAIL

No. 9187. — MAY 14, 1892.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

PASSED, SURE, CANAL

OUTWARD: — *Covina*, April 5; *Strathmore*, *Mascot*, 19; *Empress, Oliva*, *Brasch, Lydia*, 19; *Glenorgan*, *Port Philip*, 22; *Canton*, 26; *King-chow*, *Prometheus*, 26; *Nestor, Fang-ang, Gloucester*, May 3.

HOMeward: — *Bentley, Florida*, April 1; *duchesse*, 8; *Riverdale*, 22; *Clyde*, *Oreille*, 26; *Norfolk*, 26; *Ching-chow*, *Clyde*, *Medina*, May 3.

The M. M. *Orb*, a.s., *Bohdan*, with the crew, left Singapore on April 15, for *Tuesday*, May 10, at 6 p.m., and may be expected here on or about *Tuesday*, May 17. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from *Hongkong* on March 9.

The R. M. S. *Empress of Japan*, from *Van-couver*, left *Yokohama* for *Kobe*, *Shanghai* and *Hongkong* on May 12.

The O. & O. Co.'s a.s. *Polyc*, with the *AMERICAN Mail*, left *San Francisco* on 10th May, for *Hongkong*, via *Yoko-hama*.

The steamer *Japan*, with mails &c., from *Calcutta*, left *Singapore* on May 10, and may be expected here on or about May 16.

The O. S. S. Co.'s a.s. *Agamemnon* left *Singapore* on May 11, and may be ex- pected here on or about May 17.

The *Glen Line* steamer *Glenorchy*, from *London*, left *Singapore* on May 12, and may be expected here on or about May 18.

The O. S. S. Co.'s *Mayo* left *Singapore* on May 13, and may be expected here on or about May 20.

The P. & O. Co.'s a.s. *Venice* left *Bombay* for this port on May 14.

The P. & O. Co.'s a.s. *Centurion* left *London* for this port on April 11.

The P. & O. Co.'s a.s. *Fornax* left *London* for this port on April 30.

The P. & O. Co.'s a.s. *Shanghai* left *London* for this port on May 7.

The Japanese cruiser *Matsushima* left to-day for *Kobe*.

Messrs. *Dodwell, Carrill & Co.* inform us that the a.s. *Energia* left *Singapore* for this port to-day.

The Italian cruiser *Carlo* (Captain S. *Palermo*) arrived here this afternoon. The usual salutes were exchanged.

The Agent of the *Occidental and Oriental S. S. Co.* informs us that the a.s. *Edie*, with mails &c., left *San Francisco* for *Hongkong* via *Yokohama* on the 10th instant.

The Agent of the *M. M. Co.* informs us that the Company's a.s. *Malbourne* will leave *Shanghai* for this port at 2 p.m. to-day (Saturday).

TO-DAY Mr. W. C. H. *Hastings*, sent a constable to prison for seven days for stealing sugar from the *Taikuo* Refinery on 13th inst.

At the Magistracy this morning Mr. W. C. H. *Hastings* sentenced a bawler to four months' imprisonment for stealing money and jewellery of the value of \$31 from the house of a widow with whom he lodged.

St. Peter's CHURCH.—The Mission Steam Launch *Dawn* will call alongside vessels hoisting Code Pendant C between 9 and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, to convey passengers to the 11 o'clock service. Returning about 12.30.

Fuk stealing \$60 from a shop on the *Praya* on 6th inst., Mr. *Wadehouse*, at the Magistracy to-day, sentenced a bawler to one year's imprisonment with hard labour. Other two men connected with the theft are still at large.

The road to the gold fields of Formosa still continues, and by every steamer for that island men are departing in large numbers. Yesterday upwards of 70 men left by the *Foxen*. Most of these men come from the Straits, where they are fitted out for digging operations.

It seems not unlikely that the Chancellor of the Exchequer owes at least one million of his surplus to the influenza epidemic. During the past three months, wills have been reported disposing of personal estates valued at more than \$23,600,000. This compares with an amount of about 12,500,000 in personally reported by wills reported in the corresponding period of 1891. The returns from this source would appear to account for nearly the whole sum of \$4,000,000, by which the revenue has increased in the quarter ending March 31, 1892, exceeded the amount received in the first quarter of last year.

An aluminium launch, the motor of which is a naphtha engine, has been constructed by Messrs. *Reeber, Wys, and Co.* of *Zurich*. The exterior of the vessel is for the most part polished, and the consequent smoothness gives the craft a considerably greater speed than could be obtained from a steel or wooden launch of the same dimensions and engine power. The saving of weight is also important. Only the mere hull of the new craft is of aluminium; yet the ultimate cost of this metal renders the boat 35 per cent lighter than an ordinary launch of the same size would be.

THE COMMANDING THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS, representing all parts of the country, were recently introduced to the Lord Chancellor by Colonel *Holland*, M.P., prior to the sitting of the House of Peers, in order to advocate the extension to non-commissioned officers of the pay at rate, and to the men in possession of the exemption from jury service, which the Government have hitherto denied to commissioned officers.

It was pointed out that while throwing no very serious additional burden upon the civil population, the concession would be recognized as being by the force. Lord *Halsbury* understood to give the matter the most careful consideration, but, at the same time, could not pledge himself to accept the views urged by the deputation, seeing how numerous were the exemptions from jury service already.

THE ITALIAN MINISTRY.—The formation of a new Ministry has been entrusted to Signor *Giolitti* by the King of Italy.

GERMAN STATISTICIANS have been figuring the probable effect of the newest weapons in the next war. In 1870, 1870, proportion of soldiers wounded on the German side was 14.08 per cent of the total number in the field. Only 2.2 per cent were actually killed. Since then, the arms of precision have been effected, and the number of wounded has been reduced to about 30 per cent of the troops.

That is to say that in an army corps of 35,000 men, 1,200 will be killed and 5,800 wounded. About one-third of the wounded, it is thought, are likely to be serious.

Intending combatants are welcome to all the consolation contained in these scientific predictions.

Mails.

To-day's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on

MONDAY,

the 16th May, 1892, at 2.30 p.m., at his

Sales Rooms, Queen's Road, —

(To Close the Consignment),

SUNDAY,

JAPANESE WARES, comprising —

SATSUMA, KANGA, KIOTO, SHIPIO AND

SCREWS, TEA AND COFFEE SETS,

OLD BRONZE, ENAMELLED WARE AND

LAQUERED WARE.

EMBROIDERIES, KAKIMONOS, EMBROIDERED SCREENS, IVORY INLAID PANELS,

BEADWORK AND SOFTWARE,

SILK AND COTTON MATERIALS FOR LADIES' DRESSES AND KIMONOS, &c., &c.

TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,

Auctioneer.

Hongkong, May 14, 1892. 669

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Foreigners in gun and other military equipment have left Cedars for Ratsum. They will be forwarded thence to Thibet, for the purpose of equipping another Russian exploration party which is to leave there in May for Thibet.

It was at the bud's first dinner party, says the Rochester *Democrat*. The water came to where she sat and presented some cold frosted cake. She looked them over and said, "I don't care for any." The water was about to pass on when she saw what was on the cake on the edge of the dish farthest from her. "Yes, I will, too," she said, reaching over for the cake. "There is one with chocolate on it." "Big pardon, Miss," said the waiter, as she tried to pick the chocolate-covered cake up—*"big pardon, but that's my thumb."*

The *Bangkok Times* reports a shocking murder which occurred recently at Wat Samchit. One of the attendants on the priests, a Samchan about 38 years of age, who had been connected with the temple for seven or eight years, was seized with a sudden fit of rage, and, seizing an axe, struck a priest who was lying down reading a sacred book. The blow almost severed the head, causing immediate death. The madman then turned and attacked another priest, cleaving his shoulder, and causing injuries that resulted in death next day. A number of other priests ran up to secure the murderer, who fled, but was stopped by a constable just outside, and conveyed to gaol.

Outside the stores of every New York jeweller there hangs, as a sign, an enormous imitation watch. Everybody notices it; fact, few probably notice the time by all these watches is always the same—eighteen minutes past eight. Of course there is an explanation to be supplied, and the explanation has a curious historical interest. The manufacture of these jeweller's signs is a monopoly; there is but one factory in New York whence they are turned out. On the night of April 14, it was the year 1865, the man who owns that factory was hard at work completing an order for a Broadway jeweller. Suddenly the jeweller rushed in with the news that President Lincoln had been shot in Ford's Theatre at Washington by John Wilkes Booth. "Paint those hands," he said, pointing to the sign, "at the hour and minute that Lincoln was shot. I did so, and the sign painter, and since that night every watch sign that has gone out from here has been lettered the same as that one.

Trich correspondent of a Bengal paper writes that he was lately witness to a fight between a ram and a monkey which lasted for some ten minutes after he had got up on the scene. When he arrived, the monkey had seized the ram by the wool at the back of his neck, and was, as he describes, shaking it as a terrier does a rat, and occasionally striking it with fore feet; the ram being incapable of defending itself. After a few minutes either the wool or the skin at the back of the ram's neck gave way in the monkey's mouth and the ram at once took advantage of its freedom to back off so as to get a run at his enemy. The monkey very foolishly advanced towards the ram, which charged straight at him and catching him on the nose knocked him completely off and then began beating him soundly in the ribs. More than once when the monkey tried to rise he was again knocked over, but, ultimately, he managed to scramble on to his legs and galloped off as fast as he could go, leaving the ram victorious. The victory was received with loud shouts of applause by the assembled crowd of natives.

We have had a good deal recently on the iniquity of baccarat and poker parties, carried on in the salons of the mons on the samurai; but, says a writer in the *Times*, there is another form of gambling which seems to be finding increasing favour with our own—i.e. mean speculating in stock market shares. Unlike the rival speculators of pasting and bucking the favorite, gambling on the Stock Exchange can be conducted completely *sub rosa*, while the excitement to be derived from it is equally inspiring. That one half of the world has no idea how the other half lives is very true, and the mystery occasionally includes not a little coqueting with Grand Trunks or Brighton A's. I remember once travelling greatly at the luxurious entoura of a society lady, the extent of whose legitimate financial resources I happened to know. One day she took me for a drive, and when we stopped at a way-side inn I learned she intended to find out what those gambler friends were obtaining by a judicious calculation on the rise and fall of the money market. That there are many such fair flatters is proved by the frequent cases in which a lady and her broker are the dramatic persons that come before our judges. Only last week an outside broker sued the husband of one of his lady clients for a deficit arising from the fall of the Pera Neng. It is quite the sort of steamship to do this, but the Company have more particularly in view at the present moment the establishment of their service, with the intention that by the end of the summer a better class of steamers will be requisitioned. Already they have arranged that the *Edwards* and *Perth*, which, along with the *Ayuthia*, helped to popularise the Canadian Pacific route, will now share the trans-Pacific trade, and the *Perth* is now in the hands of Messrs John Elder and Co., Glasgow, by whom she is being completely overhauled. Internally, she is being practically made a new vessel, with excellent accommodation for passengers and all the modern requirements of a large ocean-going steamer. While carrying the mails in connection with the Canadian Pacific Company she accomplished the run from Hongkong to Vancouver in 22 days and from Yokohama to Vancouver in 14 knots an hour all the way. Freight-operators for China and Japan will doubtless welcome another element of competition for their patronage, and the introduction of the new line will have an important influence on shipping affairs in this and adjacent ports. Messrs Dodwell, Carrill and Company are the agents in Hongkong for the new Company, and as they have had considerable experience in this particular kind of traffic, it may be considered that the work of establishing the Company on a firm and popular basis could not have been entrusted to better hands.

Work on the Korat Railway, says the *Bangkok Times*, is steadily going ahead. Between Bangkok and Ayuthia the work is being thrown up, and the bridges have been commenced at Bangkok, four miles out of Bangkok, and the timber for nearly all the other rail, altogether—between Bangkok and Ayuthia, has been obtained. At Ayuthia Mr. McLaughlin is starting to erect a station. There has been a deviation made from the original plan, by which the line for about 20 miles past Ayuthia has been straightened, and so shortened by about two miles, besides going through more villages. From 1,200 to 1,400 coolies are now at work on the line altogether, and more are being got from Hongkong. Some 200 were ready to leave Dali for here recently, but the authorities prevented their emigration. Arrangements are now being made for the employment of Lao and Chiangmai, in order to get the native work engaged. The rails for the first five miles have been ordered from Sheffield, and the sleepers for the whole line—360,000—afterwards contracted for. The laying of these will be commenced in two or three months, and towards the end of the year a locomotive and wagons will be put on which will greatly facilitate matters, as communication has at present to be made by boat as far as Pak Pao. Mr. Mitchell has returned from a journey to the hills about half-way to Korat, up to which point the jungle has been cleared in a straight line 100 feet broad, so as to admit the air and light, the health for the coolies working on the embankments. He will say that there are about twenty miles of that forest to go on through, but that there is no other obstacle of unusual importance. Everyone was in good health, and there were no indications of anything but prosperity among the inhabitants.

THE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

H. PINCKNEY DEFEATS W. H. WALLACE. The tennis championship was played off this afternoon at the Club Grounds in presence of a very large crowd of ladies and gentlemen. His Excellency the Governor was among those present. The contestants were W. H. Wallace, the holder of the title and winner of last year's competition, and H. Pinckney, the winner of the All-Comers' Singles. Pinckney, who is a newcomer, has played remarkably well in all the competitions, and his somewhat easy victory over R. J. Coxon last week made him a strong favourite for the championship. Wallace, however, is recognised to be no mean opponent to any aspirant in harmony with his argument than with the feelings or interests of the taxpaying community.

That it so happens the community had not one word to say about the transfer of Mr. O'Brien to this Colony; and it is well known, although nobody aimed at cutting down his salary, that the item in the estimates opposite the Colonial Secretary is very much larger than the sum drawn by his predecessor.

That Mr. Whitehead was perhaps too ingenuous in his address, although things commercial as bad as bad can be, and I fancy he may have weakened his case by his distinct bias against the Registrar General's Department.

That the strictures passed by the Member for the Chamber of Commerce upon the Registrar General's Department cannot surely be a fair representation of the views of that influential body.

That Mr. Whitehead has now discovered that the abolition of that department would necessitate a larger re-distribution of duties than he previously believed possible, for he has before stated that there was comparatively little work done by the Registrar General.

That the translations and positions, and the constant intercourse with the native Community in all sorts of subjects, are proposed to be handed over to the assistant in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

That in face of the utter failure of a similar attempt made by Governor Hayne, which was wisely put an end to by the Secretary of State, it is strange that this course should have been again seriously suggested.

That if the Registrar General does not adequately fill his place in the administrative machinery of the Colony, it is a marvel to me why so many of our able officials have occupied that position.

That the bone thrown by the Government to the advocates of the retrenchment resolution was very small, and there was little or nothing on it.

That merely to cut down one or two items of public works looked very like a playful attempt to divert attention from the real issue.

That the community will now look forward and await the outcome of that "large administrative experience" the exercise of which alone can deal adequately with retrenchment.

That Mr. O'Brien naively adds that this also demands "time and opportunity"—conditions which are not likely to arise, even in the largest administrative experience, so long as this official element is supreme.

That the Cathedral Church business got more muddled than ever, even after the earnest thought and anxiety expended by Mr. Goodman thereon.

That even if the majority of the seafarers are of opinion that the Church Body, and not the Bishop, should have the power, Mr. Goodman thinks the Bishop ought still to prevail; so that the "anxiety" of the worthy Attorney General, that the Bishop should be slighted by any independent seafarers.

That up till now in the Bishopric has had no real status in the Cathedral, though he was often welcomed as an able preacher and as the ecclesiastical head of the Anglican clergy in the Colony.

That it is passing strange that, now the seafarers of the Cathedral Church have been cast adrift in an impudent condition with orders to provide for themselves, this now and special acknowledgement should be pathetically called for behalf of the Bishop.

That a greater danger lurks in the officemant of the Church Body than can possibly arise in keeping things as they were, and keeping the Bishop in his proper place as referee.

That some one must have been making curiously inaccurate statements—whether it was His Right Reverence, the Bishop, or Mr. Coates, as hard to discover.

That the Church Body could not well be said to be unanimous, when one name at least was set down on the other side.

That Mr. Coates ought to explain the meaning of his somewhat ungrammatical statement, and mention who composed the "ungrammatical" Church Body.

That some of my readers will begin to inquire Commander Hastings has set himself up deliberately as a target for public writers, and that the fire he draws is to his liking.

That it is not quite a satisfactory state of things, and, as I previously suggested, the only hope of peace is to make him Governor of the Gaol.

That his blunder in the registration case, whereby a respected European resident bearing a historic Hongkong name was treated (perhaps unwittingly) so deeply law-broken as been repaired by His Excellency the Governor.

That \$20 of the \$25 penalty has been remitted, and the last explanation given by the magistrate stands for itself.

That the one is liable to arrest, but it is not given to every one the courage to acknowledge it.

That the greatest error yet committed by Mr. Hastings, however, finds a medium of expression in his last report to the Government as Acting Harbour Master.

That in that report we find an official doing a risky thing, namely, entering the arena of discussion, and endeavouring to answer assertions made, if we mistake not, by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

That the Chairman of the Chamber is perhaps somewhat more cautious in his remarks than etiquette demands, on

FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That few residents cherished the hope the Governor would entertain Mr. Whitehead's retrenchment resolution.

That it is not in human nature, or official nature, to be a party directly or indirectly to self-destruction, or self-maiming.

That Mr. O'Brien's reasons against any interference with the high prerogative of the Crown made up a fairly able speech, but his manifest failure to shun the claws of arbitrary government must have been apparent to the minds of all thinking residents.

That the references made by Mr. O'Brien to his own financial condition were more in harmony with his argument than with the feelings or interests of the taxpaying community.

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That again, when referring to Medical fees for inspecting emigrants, Mr. Hastings closes his argument thus: "It, however, the burdens are excessive and the benefits not an adequate equivalent, there is no reason why the trade should be confined to this country."

That these are the words of a British official to British workmen.

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